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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Warns People of Contaminated Lunchmeat Products Distributed in Idaho

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare urges consumers to check their refrigerators for “ARMOUR, Lunch Makers® Cracker Crunchers” meals made with turkey, ham, bologna or chicken with sell-by dates between January 1 and February 21, 2006. Consumers are urged to dispose of them or return them to the place of purchase for a refund because of possible bacterial contamination. The nationwide recall includes 2.8 million pounds of Lunch Makers® Cracker Crunchers meal products, some of which were distributed in Idaho.

These products may be contaminated with the bacteria *Listeria monocytogenes*. *Listeria* can cause serious health problems, especially miscarriages and stillbirths. “Elderly persons, pregnant women, or those with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of developing a severe illness from the bacteria which may include a high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness, and nausea,” said Dr. Leslie Tengelsen, Deputy State Epidemiologist.

To view the recall notice go to the United States Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety Inspection Service website: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_052_2005_Expanded/index.asp

Media with questions about the recall should contact Lunch Makers Public Affairs Director, Tania Graves at (402) 595-6258. Consumers with questions about the recall should call the Lunch Makers consumer information line at (800) 414-7500.

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(Editors: For more information about Food Safety, please contact Tom Shanahan at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 334-0668, or your local Health District.)